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perversity," which make the famous *Memoirs* one of the greatest books of its kind; but he also introduces a most ingenious and evidently sound theory to explain the value of that literature of which Casanova's *Memoirs* may serve as a type. The book which is unmoral but not immoral may, Mr. Ellis believes, subserve a true use by affording a vent for impulses ordinarily suppressed, but not in themselves unhealthy. Thus, a book such as the *Memoirs* gives the reader a sort of harmless moral vacation. Indeed, one function of art, Mr. Ellis suggests, may be to furnish a moral equivalent for what would now be considered impropriety—just as athletic sport furnishes in some measure a moral equivalent for war. The reader of the essay upon Zola will be rewarded with insights of another kind yet of no less value. In this essay Mr. Ellis rids a great reputation of many false or confusing connotations, discovering the artist in the man and making the character of the man, as moulded by experience, explain the limitations of the artist.

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MEMORIES OF A PUBLISHER. By George Haven Putnam. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1915.

Among writers of reminiscences there are few who consistently resist the temptation to loquacity, still fewer who can afford to do without a considerable measure of the story-teller's plausible art. George Haven Putnam is exceptional in both respects. His *Memories of a Publisher* is a book packed with information, anecdote, impressions of notable and interesting people, comments upon the political problems and events of the period between 1865 and 1915. Each entry in the record of Mr. Putnam's active life during this period—the record of a life rich in manifold interests, in rewarding experiences, and in pleasant associations—is of independent interest, and practically complete in itself. Each contains something worth while from the viewpoint of history or literary biography, to say nothing of the interest which commonly pertains to a personal record. A feature of the book, moreover, which adds not a little to its readability and usability is the author's business-like habit of pursuing a given topic to its end, regardless of the break in chronological sequence which this entails.

In the present volume Mr. Putnam supplements the account which he has given in an earlier work, *A Memoir of George Palmer Putnam*, of the publishing house founded by his father, taking up the record at the year 1872. In his story, however, the business of publishing holds a very minor place; the narrative deals frankly and familiarly with remarkable men of many kinds whom the author knew; it treats straightforwardly and understandingly of events and movements in which for the most part he was directly concerned. An early chapter contains interesting sketches of some

of the old London publishers—men such as Richard Bentley, John Murray, George Bell, Sampson Low and Henry George Bohn—whom the author met when he went to England in 1866 to renew the relations of his father's firm with the English book trade. Among the notable Americans of whom Mr. Putnam gives us glimpses, and often much more than glimpses, are Carl Schurz, George William Curtis, Chester A. Arthur, Jefferson Davis, Grover Cleveland, Henry Villard, Edwin A. Abbey, Theodore Roosevelt, Andrew Carnegie, Joseph Choate and John Fiske. One chapter is devoted to a group of pleasant anecdotes relating to a number of Japanese acquaintances, including Prince Ikawura, Count Ito (then a member of Ikawura's staff), Baron Kaneko, and many more. Later sojourns in England are sources of many extremely interesting anecdotes or brief character-sketches. Some of the English notables who figure in the tale are William Morris, George Macauley Trevelyan, Oscar Browning, T. Adolphus Ward, Walter Besant, William Blackmore, Edward A. Freeman, Leslie Stephen and Lord Kitchener.

The author's political activities have been important and varied. Mr. Putnam was a member of the Society for Political Education formed in the late seventies, and of the National Civil Service Reform Association of 1887. He was one of the small group of independents, called the "Young Scratchers," who played a noteworthy part in the Presidential contest that began to take shape in 1881, as well as in the State elections of 1879.

As a public-spirited citizen of New York Mr. Putnam has been connected with a number of civic movements; he relates much that is interesting concerning the work of the City Club, the Citizens' Union, the Bureau of Municipal Research, the Committee of Fifteen and the Committee of Fourteen. He offers, besides, a somewhat extended account of the proceedings of the Grand Jury between 1879 and 1914, giving particulars regarding the investigation of the failure of Grant and Ward. Mr. Putnam relates in full the story of the fight for international copyright in which he was intimately concerned. The conclusion of the volume deals with some timely and interesting notes and letters on the European war.

Mr. Putnam has written a readable book, and one that will long continue to have readers. The frankness which makes it possible for him to write of Theodore Roosevelt as a born fighter, with the makings of a good soldier, "except for a certain tendency to insubordination," and to describe Lord Kitchener as "modest enough in his utterances on matters in which he was an accepted authority, but disposed to be 'cocky' in his conclusions on things of which he knew little or nothing," gives zest to the human interest which pervades the book.